

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, 1st paragraph:

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

This application claims priority under 35 USC 119 from Japanese Patent Applications No. 2002-362664 and No. 2003-386149, the disclosures of which [[is]] are incorporated by reference herein.

Page 2, 1st paragraph:

In the conventional structure, the fore end of the base member is fitted to one end of the tube, and then, the outer periphery of the fore end of the base member is securely clamped around the tube by a clamping ring. Thereafter, the tube is folded inward (back over itself), the tube is pulled up to a base end of the base member in such a manner that the base member is covered with the other end of the tube, the other end of the tube is securely clamped at the base end of the base member by a clamping ring, and thus, the folded portion of the tube is located at the fore end. The folded portion is inserted into a passage such as a tubular member or a hole formed at a part. However, in the case where the passage or the hole is curved, if the curvature is large, the tube cannot be inserted since the base member is rigid and has a predetermined length.

Moreover, although it is advantageous to use a long tube or a plurality of tubes connected to each other for a passage such as a tubular member at an inlet or an outlet, in the case where the pressure inside of the container or equipment is high, it is difficult to fabricate an elongated tube having a conventional tube folding structure, and further, the folded portion makes a diameter large. Additionally, the base member also must be elongated, thereby resulting in an increase in weight, and the base member cannot be used in the case where the passage is curved.

Page 10, 5th paragraph:

Fig. 1 shows a seal device for a tubular member or the like (hereinafter simply referred to as "a seal device") in a first embodiment of the invention. A seal device 10 is formed into a relatively long and cylindrical shape, and is provided with a cylindrical seal tube 12 opened at both ends thereof (i.e., a fore end and a rear end) along a longitudinal direction. At the fore end of the seal tube 12 is securely inserted a base member 14; in contrast, at the rear end of the seal tube 12 is securely inserted another base member 16. Consequently, both ends of the seal tube 12 are closed by the base members 14 and 16, so that the inside of the seal tube 12 is turned into a tightly sealed state. At the base member 16, [[an]] a fluid injection passage 18 is formed in such a manner as

to penetrate along the longitudinal direction of the seal tube 12. The fluid injection passage 18 is adapted to inject a fluid such as gaseous nitrogen into the seal tube 12, so as to expand the seal tube 12 toward the outer periphery.

Pages 15-16, bridging paragraph:

As shown in Fig. 1, a connecting ring 96 is securely held between a pair of nuts 92 and 94 for securely connecting the plug 68 to the base member 16 via the nipple 70. Around the connecting ring 96 is secured a locking ring 98. Moreover, in the seal device 10, there is provided a wire rope 100 having shackles 102 securely connected at both ends thereof. One of the shackles 102 of the wire rope 100 can be connected to or disconnected from the locking ring 98 of the connecting ring 96. Consequently, the wire rope 100 extends to the outside of the fluid passage such as a tubular member in the state in which the seal tube 12 is inserted into the fluid passage such as a tubular member by connecting the wire rope 100 to the connecting ring 96. In this manner, an operator grips the other shackle 102 of the wire rope 100 so as to apply pulling force after the completion of sealing work with respect to the fluid passage such as a tubular member, and thus, the operator can easily pull the seal tube 12 to the outside from the fluid passage such as a tubular member. As a result, workability becomes excellent in

pulling the seal tube 12. Furthermore, excessive force cannot be applied to the seal device 10, thereby preventing [[a]] damage [[on]] to the device.